

BOXER & GERSON

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Gentlemen:

HAMA

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Legal Assistants

We have been advised that many supervisors at P.G.&E. are requesting that industrially injured employees be accompanied by a management person to the treating doctor's office when the employee is getting medical treatment for the industrial injury.

We have also been advised that this practice is not followed when an employee of P.G.&E. sees a doctor for treatment for a non-industrial injury.

We direct your attention to Labor Code Section 132(a), of the State of California which prohibits employer discrimination in workers' compensation claims. After our review of the facts, it is our opinion that P.G.&E. violates Labor Code Section 132(a) when it sends supervisory personnel with an industrially injured employee to a doctor for treatment. Unless this practice is immediately stopped, we will have no choice but to pursue Labor Code Section 132(a) claims in cases where a supervisory person accompanies an industrially injured employee to a doctor.

Further, it would appear that P.G.&E.'s conduct has had the chilling effect of discouraging employees from reporting industrial injuries. We believe that P.G.&E. employees are not reporting industrial injuries because they do not wish to have supervisory personnel accompany them to the treating doctor's office and then participate in discussions with the treating doctor.

Very truly yours,

BOXER & GERSON

STEWART N. BOXER SNB/cm